

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208417

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OXEC, PFOR, CE, US

SUBJECT: IV PROGRAM: CEYLONese AMBASSADOR CALL ON ACTING
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY

REF: COLOMBO 2621

BEGIN SUMMARY:

CEYLONese AMBASSADOR CALLED ON ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY LAINGEN TO DISCUSS IV PROGRAMS. NOTED SEVERAL
RECENT IVP GRANTS HAD BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL BUT BETTER
PROGRAM MIGHT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE FOR DEPUTY JUSTICE
MINISTER WICKREMENAYAKE. AMBASSADOR OFFERED CEYLONese
EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAMS.
HE ALSO INDICATED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT ANY RESIDUAL
PROBLEMS ON COORDINATION OF PARTIAL IVP GRANTS WOULD BE
DISCUSSED IN COLOMBO. LAINGEN EXPRESSED US APPRECIATION OF
AMBASSADOR'S INTEREST AND OFFER OF HELP AND SAID WE
INTEND CORRECT ANY PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED IN WICKREMENAYAKE
GRANT. END SUMMARY.

1. CEYLONese AMBASSADOR KANAKARATNE CALLED ON ACTING
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAINGEN SEPT. 19 TO DISCUSS
SRI LANKA INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM. KANAKARATNE
NOTED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED HIS EARLIER CONCERNS ABOUT
PARTIAL IVP GRANTS (STATE 141241) WITH US AMBASSADOR TO
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SRI LANKA VAN HOLLEN IN JULY. HE SAID VAN HOLLEN

APPRECIATED HIS POINT OF VIEW ON VALUE OF CEYLONSE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON BEING FULLY INFORMED REGARDING IVP PARTICIPANTS AND HE ASSUMED DETAILS REGARDING PROCEDURE ON PARTIAL GRANTS WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN COLOMBO.

2. KANAKARATNE WENT ON TO SAY PROBLEM HE WISHED DISCUSS NOW WAS PROGRAMMING OF GRANTEES. HE THOUGHT LAKSHMAN JAYAKODY, SIVA OBEYESEKERE AND RONNIE DE MEL GRANTS HAD BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL BUT PROGRAM FOR DEPUTY JUSTICE MINISTER WICKREMENAYAKE COULD HAVE BEEN MORE USEFUL. CALL AT JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WAS WITH ACTING ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR ANTI-TRUST MATTERS, WHEREAS WICKREMENAYAKE MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE QUESTIONS. FURTHERMORE WICKREMENAYAKE HAD BEEN PROGRAMMED IN WASHINGTON OVER LABOR DAY WEEKEND WITH ESCORT UNFAMILIAR WITH WASHINGTON. THUS PROSPECT FOR MEETINGS WAS LIMITED AND ESCORT WAS NOT EVEN EQUIPPED TO TAKE HIM SIGHT-SEEING. KANAKARATNE REITERATED HIS DEEP INTEREST IN IV PROGRAM AND THEREFORE HIS CONCERN WHEN AN OPPORTUNITY WAS MISSED FOR A FULLY SUCCESSFUL GRANT. CEYLONSE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IF GIVEN OPPORTUNITY IT CAN OFFER USEFUL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO DEPARTMENT IN DEVELOPI G PROGRAM TAILORED TO INTERESTS OF CEYLONSE PARTICIPANTS.

3. LAINGEN REPLIED THAT DEPARTMENT INDEED IS GRATEFUL FOR AMBASSADOR'S INTEREST IN PROGRAM AND IS GLAD THAT HE SEES IT IN SRI LANKA'S INTEREST AS WE SEE IT VERY MUCH IN U.S. INTEREST. HE SAID WE ARE EAGER TO USE EVERY RESOURCE TO ASSURE GOOD PROGRAM AND THIS INCLUDES RESOURCES OF CEYLONSE EMBASSY. WE HAVE LEARNED FROM EXPERIENCE WITH WICKREMENAYAKE GRANT, AND INTEND TO CORRECT SUCH PROBLEMS IN DEALING WITH FUTURE GRANTS. LAINGEN ADDED THAT WE HAVE HAD A HEAVY SCHEDULE OF SENIOR CEYLONSE OFFICIALS COMING UNDER IV PROGRAM RECENTLY. WE ARE PLEASED WITH THIS BUT PERHAPS IT WOULD AID PROGRAMMING IF GRANTS COULD BE SPACED OUT MORE. KANAKARATNE AGREED.
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4. LAINGEN CLOSED BY NOTING THAT WE WOULD RECONFIRM WITH AMBASSADOR VAN HOLLEN THAT QUESTION OF PARTIAL GRANT PROCESSING IS BEING SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED IN COLOMBO. ON WASHINGTON SIDE, WE WISH TO WORK TOGETHER WITH EMBASSY TO DEVELOP GOOD IV GRANT PROGRAMS.

5. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR KANAKARATNE APPEARED MORE

RELAXED REGARDING IV PROGRAM THAN IN EARLIER DISCUSSIONS.

WE GOT IMPRESSION HE IS REASSURED THAT WE ARE WORKING OUT
A PRODUCTIVE MODUS VIVENDI FOR HANDLING GRANTS DESPITE
PROBLEMS IN WICKREMANAYKE PROGRAM. KISSINGER

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